

**TO: Youth Council**

**DATE: 2/09/05**

**FROM: WIB Staff**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: Younger Youth Program Quarterly Report**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information Only**

**DISCUSSION: Younger Youth Report, October/November/December 2004 is attached.**

**ATTACHMENT(S): Younger Youth Quarterly Report will be available at the meeting.**

**To: Dave Davis**  
Employment & Training Analyst, Department of Workforce Investment

**From: Rebecca Lincoln**  
Career Educator, Youth Opportunity Program, Merced County Office of Education

**Re: Merced County Youth Council Quarterly Report- Younger Youth Program**

**Date: January 31, 2005 for the quarter ending December 31, 2004**

**A. Overall status of the program:**

The program continues to exceed performance measures. This quarter **155 YOP participants** were enrolled into the program. Of those students who were exited this quarter, 95% (92/97), attained basic skills, work readiness, and/or occupational skills goals, 63% (12/19) of participants attained a diploma.

**B. Past quarter highlights:**

1) **Career Industry Days:** These ROP sponsored events provide youth with detailed information and exploration of specific career pathways. Career Industry Days include tours of local businesses, guest speaker presentations, and hands-on activities related to various careers within a pathway. This quarter, the following three Career Industry Days were held at the Merced County Fair Grounds:

- a) Careers in Arts and Communications was held on Thursday, October 21, 2004
- b) Careers in Industrial Technology was held on Wednesday, November 3, 2004
- c) Careers in Agriculture was held on Thursday, December 2, 2004

YOP mentors and their participants attended these Career Industry Days. The mentors are encouraged to invite those participants whose career goals or technical training aligned with these pathways.

2) **WIA Goals Training** was provide for YOP mentors, and support staff on October 19, 2004, Mary Cavazos, a representative from our EDD partner, provided the training.

3) **PLATO Training** for YOP mentors and support staff was held on December 15, 2004, (Beginning session) and on December 16, 2004 (Intermediate session).

4) **Beginning SCANS I Training** for new YOP Mentors was held on October 8, 2004. This session provided an overview of the SCANS competencies. Mentors learned how to integrate the competencies into existing coursework and how to motivate students to learn using the SCANS model.

5) **BE SAFE: Gang Awareness and Sexual Harassment Training** for YOP staff held on November 1, 2004.

6) **Advanced SCANS II Training** was held for YOP mentors on December 10, 2004. This

workshop builds upon the teaching strategies introduced in SCANS I training and includes Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences.

- 7) **"30 Ways to Shine,"** a training on strategies intended to assist new employees to be successful, was provided for new YOP staff members on November 17, 2004.
- 8) **Partner staff from the Merced Union High School District** toured the Work-Net One Stop Employment Resource Center on October 4, 2004.
- 9) **EDD & YOP community service project:** In November, twenty-one youth donated non perishable items, to provide six families with a box of food items for Thanksgiving, to include a turkey. A family of an EMPOWER participant was selected for a donation. For Christmas, eighteen other youth either donated a toy or helped wrap gifts for Head Start Migrant children with a total of 50 gifts wrapped. Thirty gifts were provided for Head Start and the rest were provided to assist EMPOWER in their community service project.

#### 10) **Success Story: Brandy Mejia**

Brandy Mejia, a YOP student, is a senior attending Buhach Colony High School in Atwater. She is enrolled in academic classes, involved in community clubs and activities and applying to colleges and universities. On January 11, 2004, she received a letter many seniors await anxiously. There were the words she had been waiting to see, *"Congratulations, you have been accepted."*

Brandy enrolled in YOP as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Rivera Middle School. Brandy comes from a low-income family who works seasonally in agriculture. She has attended several schools including Valley Community School in Livingston, Atwater High School and now Buhach Colony School. Brandy's freshman year was difficult. She ended up failing some classes. Her sophomore year brought a huge improvement, earning mostly 'A's in her classes. She also took summer classes to make up her credits and she earned all 'A's. She continued to earn good grades and also took challenging classes such as AP U.S. History and French. Brandy has done this while working during the summer YOP program and giving to her community by helping to put together Thanksgiving food baskets for the needy. She is also the Community Chair for the Interact club.

Brandy plans to major in communications at Cal State L.A. to become a journalist. She is also interested in teaching. Brandy is looking forward to attending Cal State L.A. and is grateful for the opportunity given to her to not only earn money during the summers working under YOP, but also being given guidance and encouragement to pursue her dreams.

C. **Past quarter deficiencies:** None.

D. **Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:**

- 1) YOP staff distributed brochures at the Merced Job Fair held on October 6th
- 2) YOP staff distributed brochures at the "Lights On" event held at the Merced Mall on

- October 14.
- 3) YOP staff provided a presentation and distributed materials at Valley Community School Healthy Start committee meeting on October 26, 2004.
  - 4) All partners are enrolling new participants and have provided information in classrooms and career centers at the high schools.

**E) Number enrolled & number of participants in each program component:** December 2004

**Total number of active students:** 398

**Total number of participants in follow-up:** 190

**F) Number of hard/soft exits for the quarter:** 19/00

**G) Next quarter challenges:** Preparation for annual monitor's review.

**H) Technical assistance needed:** none